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# HOLYOKE the Sun

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## Paraeducator Association *advocates for fair wages*

By Quinn Suomala  
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – The Paraeducators Association and supporters advocated for a wage increase at the school committee meeting on Nov. 11.

Currently, paraprofessionals in Holyoke make an average of 18.26 per hour. That is around \$24,000 a year. They do not find this to be a sustainable wage. Therefore, they approached the school committee to advocate for a change.

While the school committee was unable to discuss the topic, as they do not currently have the power to grant higher wages as Holyoke Public Schools are still under receivership, they were still happy to hear out the wants of their community.

“We’re here to listen to what’s happening in the district so that way we can discuss with the receiver,” Vice Chair Mildred Lefebvre said.

“Whatever it is that’s going to improve the lives of our students and make sure they have an equitable education, but at the same time we have to value our staff that are working with our students.”

The committee listened as the members of the Paraeducators Association and supporters came up and participated in public comment.

City Councilor Jenny Rivera was one such supporter. Rivera was once a paraeducator in HPS and is well aware of the value they add to the school system.

“Paraprofessionals are the backbone of our educational system, yet they are often undervalued and undercompensated for their invaluable contributions,” Rivera said. “It’s time to recognize their dedication, hard work and essential role they play in nurturing our students’ growth and success.”

The paraprofessionals in Holyoke go above and beyond

their job description, putting work in after their paid hours and filling in roles they were not initially hired for.

“We are working with significant social, emotional and academically struggling students, we spend time after school hours completing data and collaborating with colleagues on improving strategies to help our students,” President of the Holyoke Paraeducators Association June Lavelle said.

One paraprofessional, Falecia Bagg, shared her own experiences as a paraprofessional at HPS.

She has been a para at HPS for three years, and each year she has been pulled into the role of a second grade teacher, while still receiving paraprofessional wages.

“I am now in my third year at HPS and, you can guess it, I am teaching a second grade classroom,” she said. “This

See WAGES, page 6

## GREEK PLACE CLOSES



Customers line up for their last opportunity to have food at The Greek Place in the Holyoke Mall last weekend. The Greek Place was asked to vacate its location by mall management, which issued an eviction notice last month. The Greek Place was a mainstay in the food court for decades. They are currently looking for a new place to operate.

Turley photo by Gregory A. Scibelli

## TURKEY DAY TRADITION



Nathan Pok attempts a pass for the Holyoke High School football team. The Knights faced South Hadley in the “Battle of the Bridge” on Thanksgiving morning last Thursday. Results and more photos on page 7.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

## Council makes amendments to budget

By Quinn Suomala  
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – At the city council meeting on Nov. 21, the city council discussed and voted to approve an amended version of Mayor Joshua Garcia’s Supplemental Budget.

The vote to approve the budget was 9-3, with Councilors Kevin Jourdain, Linda Vacon, and Will Puello voting against. The remaining councilors voted in favor, with Councilor Israel Rivera absent for this vote.

During the meeting the council voted to make three cuts

to the budget. One cut was to cut funds to the repair and maintenance sewer funds by \$135,000.

Jourdain proposed this cut as there is \$7.3 million in the budget but the council has not received information on how much of it is for general fund spending. They hope to have a conversation soon in order to clarify this information.

Jourdain feels some of the general funds could be transferred into repair and maintenance sewers.

“Assuming it’s for actual, subsurface sewer lines...those expenses should be moved out

and then they could fund this,” Jourdain said. “This \$135,000 is not justified yet at this point.”

Additionally, several of the expenses used in the budget to calculate an average cost of the sewer maintenance to justify the increase in funds are one-time expenses.

“You have a number of one time increases in this area already...those are not the basis, one time expenses, for permanent increases in the budget,” Jourdain said. “So, in terms of rate increases, what we need to

See BUDGET, page 6

## Federal funding needed to help with shelters

By Quinn Suomala  
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – Following an activation with the National Guard, State Sen. John Velis, D-Westfield, is looking to see more federal funding for homeless migrants who are coming into Massachusetts.

He said it is something affecting his district in Western Massachusetts, and while state funding is needed, it’s not going to cover everything.

“One of the biggest issues in MA right now is that we are doing this all with state funds,” Velis said. “The federal government, and I can’t stress this

enough, has been an absolute no-show on this...since the early to late 19th century the United States Supreme Court made it really clear that immigration is a federal issue and the federal government has just been a no-show on this.”

Funds for the work permit program and a number of other programs have been historically done by the federal government, yet recently, according to Velis, Massachusetts has been completely on their own for funding.

Governor Maura Healey has put forward a supplemental budget with an additional \$250 million to fund this program, but this model is unsustainable.

“We’re having to get real innovative at the state level,” Velis said.

Velis is working with Healey and other members of the state government to continue to push forward policies to support these people, but without funds from the federal government they are continually hitting roadblocks.

“The federal government is not doing anything on this at all, funding or expediting work permits, so what’s happening is inadvertently the states are being left on the hook to fund this endeavor,” Velis said. “This

See SHELTERS, page 6

# Donovan's Irish Pub re-opens in Holyoke

By Quinn Suomala  
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – Donovan's Irish Pub has found a new home in Holyoke.

Co-owner Justine Garaughty said the community has been extremely welcoming to them as they opened up at their new location at 80 Jarvis St.

"They've been quite supportive of us...we have people calling us every day to see when we're open, wishing us luck, I know the Holyoke forum has been quite positive for us, people are driving in and out of the parking lot every day to see when we're going to be opening," she said. "So there's been a lot of positive support."

Many of those calling have been loyal customers to Donovan's for many years.

Donovan's has long been a well-loved name in the area. With over 20 years spent at the Eastfield Mall they are known for their welcoming environment and the way they honor Irish heritage.

"When we go back home to Ireland, we get the welcome from everybody over there and that's what we want people to feel when they walk in the doors, is to feel welcome and invited," Justine Garaughty said.

Justine and her husband, Frank Garaughty took over Donovan's in 2015. They knew the original owners Michael and Diane Donovan and when the Donovans were selling, they knew they wanted to take over.

"We knew that Michael wanted to sell the place and we heard that other people were going to be buying it and knew that they were going to change it up," Justine said. "Frank



Donovan's Irish Pub owners Justine and Frank Garaughty look forward to welcoming the community to their new location.

*Turley photos by Quinn Suomala*

and I actually met at Donovan's, so we wanted to keep the Irish heritage going and what Donovan's meant... we didn't want to see any changes, so

we decided to purchase."

The Garaughtys have been working to continue that goal as they move to their new location. They want to ensure that Donovan's keeps its welcoming Irish feel even though they are no longer in the same place.

"We're trying to continue the tradition with Irish music twice a week, Friday and Saturday nights," Justine said. "We also have built a bigger bar for people to converse at, as one of the things that Donovan's really stood for at the mall was that everybody loved the bar. So, we tried to replicate it."

In fact, Michael Donovan, the son

of the original owners, even built this new bar.

"The bar has become amazing, thanks to Michael," Justine said.

They also hope to be able to grow in this new location. With a patio and a banquet/event hall, they hope that Donovan's will be better than ever while still keeping the Donovan's environment that is nostalgic for so many.

"We're able to do way more here, there's a lot more potential for us," Justine said. "There's a lot of opportunities for us here that we hope we're able to succeed at."

In honor of the new location, Donovan's will also be bringing in some new menu items.

Included in the new menu is a 16 oz porterhouse house porkchop, in honor of Slainte which used to be in the same location as Donovan's is now.

"It's going to be a mixture of our old menu, some new things, some plays on what they had at Slainte" Justine said. "We don't want to deviate from what we are and what we stand for and what we've made our business on but we will be introducing new things."

One thing that will not be changing is the majority of the staff. Justine said they worked hard to keep the staff from one location to another as without their help Donovan's would not be as successful as it is today.

"Frank and I may own Donovan's, but the staff is what keeps Donovan's going," she said. "Without them, we would be nowhere. They really helped us even when we bought the place. They helped us learn the business. So, they're coming with us in making the transfer from Springfield to Holyoke and they're the face of Donovan's."

The staff, as well as the Garaughtys look forward to welcoming customers once Donovan's finally reopens its doors on December 1st.

"We want to be able to serve you, wait on you, talk to you," Justine said. "We're really excited to let people in to see what we've done to transform the space...We're excited to see people's faces when they walk in the doors. We are just as anxious to open as you are."

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# RVCC employees receive student loan forgiveness

HOLYOKE – The team members at River Valley Counseling Center received nearly \$1.8 Million in student loan forgiveness this year through the MA Repay Program and the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program.

“Community mental health centers, such as River Valley Counseling Center, are vitally important and in high demand, providing mental health services for our most vulnerable community members,” said Rosemarie Ansel, executive director of River Valley Counseling

Center. “We are proud to be included as an approved site for these programs. This is a reward for working in public service that we are committed to helping our team access.”

Over the summer, Massachusetts announced that it would be awarding more than \$140 million in collective student loan relief to nearly 3,000 primary care and behavioral health providers in the state. In exchange for loan repayment through the MA Repay Program, each recipient has to work for at least four

years in their field at one of the state’s approved organizations. For the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program, recipients must serve at least two years at an approved NHSC site in a Health Professional Shortage Area. River Valley Counseling Center is an approved site with both of these programs.

“River Valley Counseling Center does an amazing job with educating, coaching, and supporting employees through the student loan forgiveness process. Executive team members pro-

mote the programs available, offer group information sessions, and meet with staff individually to help guide them through the process as necessary,” said Elaine Campbell, Psy.D., assistant executive director/clinical director for River Valley Counseling Center. “We really help our employees develop their careers, while also providing them the tools they need to manage work-life balance. Relieving student loan debt allows our team to eliminate stress in their lives and be their best selves both in and out of work.”

## Taste of Italy on Dec. 8

HOLYOKE – A taste of Italy is coming to the United Congregational Church of Holyoke in December. Lasagna is on the menu at UCCH’s monthly Community Meal on Friday, Dec. 8 at 5 p.m. A family movie immediately follows at 6 p.m.

The Community Meal is hosted on the second Friday evening of each month at the church at 300 Appleton St. All Are Welcome to attend, and the meal is completely free of charge. The menu changes monthly; past meals have featured breakfast for dinner,

steak sandwiches, and more. Parents must accompany their children.

The United Congregational Church of Holyoke is an Open and Affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ. We welcome all individuals, regardless of where they are on their journey. For individuals who would like to learn more about UCCH, please visit the website at [www.uccholyoke.org](http://www.uccholyoke.org), find us on Facebook or Instagram, or call the office at 413-532-1483, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

## HCC opens registration for Wintersession, spring 2024

HOLYOKE – Registration is now open for Wintersession and Spring 2024 semester classes at Holyoke Community College.

HCC’s 11-day Wintersession term begins Friday, Dec. 29, and ends Friday, Jan. 12. The spring 2023 semester begins Tuesday, Jan. 16.

With the exception of one environmental science lab course, all Wintersession classes are online. HCC’s spring offerings include a mix of on-campus, online, and hybrid courses.

“Wintersession provides a wonderful opportunity for students to add a course they couldn’t fit into their schedules in the fall or to get ahead for the spring by taking up to four credits in just two weeks,” said Mark Hudgik, interim dean of strategic recruitment initiatives, admissions, and financial aid.

Wintersession classes are offered in anthropology, business law, conflict resolution and mediation, economics, environmental science, geography, management, math, nutrition, sociology, social problems and statistics.

In addition to full-semester, 15-week classes in spring, HCC also offers three accelerated, Flex Start Sessions: Flex 1 (Jan. 16-March 7), Flex 2 (Feb. 5-May 8), and Flex 3 (March 18-May 7).

“The spring semester at HCC is designed to help students go to college in the way that works best for them,” said Hudgik. “Classes are offered on campus and online in 15, 12 and seven-week sessions, so students can find what fits best for their busy schedules.”

To sign up for a Wintersession class, please visit [hcc.edu/wintersession](http://hcc.edu/wintersession).

To sign up for Spring 2024, go to [hcc.edu/admissions](http://hcc.edu/admissions).

In addition, HCC will be hosting a registration express event on Sat., Jan. 6, when prospective students can apply for admission, take the college placement test, meet with an academic adviser, register for classes, set up financial aid, all in one day, as well as learn about MassReconnect, the state’s new free community college program for Massachusetts residents 25 and older.

## Mayor seeks volunteers for digital equity team

HOLYOKE – Mayor Joshua A. Garcia is looking to form a team of civic-minded people to help bring about digital equity in Holyoke.

Digital equity is the concept that everyone should have equal access to digital technologies, including the Internet. Equal access to digital infrastructure gives people advantages in education, work, and society.

Garcia is looking for volunteers willing to engage in the work of digital equity planning for Holyoke over the next 6-12 months. To fully examine the issue, Garcia said, “We will need a group of dedicated volunteers.”

The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission is the consultant on this effort and will be coordinating and facilitating the project, which is funded by a grant from the Massachusetts Broadband Institute.

“The first step in this process is to create a Core Planning Team that can partner with the PVPC to lead this process,” Garcia said. “The quality of the planning and the success of this initiative start with putting together the right team.”

Garcia said the PVPC has already done a considerable amount of planning

and data collection to get this effort underway. The next step is to convene a meeting of the Core Planning Team. During that kickoff meeting, PVPC will share information about the process and, mutually, the Team will identify approaches to data gathering and community engagement.

The main role of the Core Planning Team is to provide feedback and guidance to the PVPC and the City throughout the entire 6-12 month planning process.

The Core Planning Team will: Undertake data gathering through interviews, focus groups or surveys; Identify and recruit stakeholders to promote community engagement (convene events, participate in distributing a survey, provide information on organizations for asset mapping, etc.); Assess data collected and reflect on the effectiveness of the data-gathering activities.; Provide feedback on the plan’s recommendations, including the vision, measurable objectives, strategies, and timeline.

Those interested in serving on this committee are asked to contact Garcia’s office by Thursday, Dec. 7. Email [mayorsoffice@holyoke.org](mailto:mayorsoffice@holyoke.org) or call 413-561-1600.

## Tree lighting, parade on Dec. 2

HOLYOKE – Join Mayor Joshua Garcia and the Holyoke Parks and Recreation Department as the City hosts its Annual Christmas Tree Lighting and Parade of Lights celebration on Saturday, Dec. 2. Enjoy unlimited free rides at the Holyoke Merry Go Round from 3 to 5 p.m.

The Children’s Museum will also be open and offering holiday crafts. From 5 to 6 p.m. at City Hall, warm up with hot chocolate, cookies and popcorn. Enjoy a performance by the Ambassador’s Choir

of First Lutheran Church and Holyoke High School Madrigal Choir. Garcia will light the Christmas Tree at 6 p.m. Watch the Parade of Lights depart from the Holyoke High School parking lot at 5:45 p.m., traveling to Hampshire Street over to High Street arriving at City Hall. Wave to Santa as he arrives on the Fire Truck. Enjoy a performance by Bomba de Aquí. For more information, please contact the Holyoke Parks and Recreation Department at 413-322-5620 or visit [www.holyoke.org](http://www.holyoke.org).

## Help offered for small businesses is here

HOLYOKE – As the City of Holyoke’s Office of Planning and Economic Development continues to find ways to support small businesses and local entrepreneurs, the need for creative capital solutions was imperative.

Through the state’s Urban Agenda Grant, OPED staff was able to work with Third Eye Network, who had also been the consultant on the Local Rapid Recovery Planning program, to gather and explain the issues facing small businesses and startups while also providing a number of opportunities and summaries of the funds potentially available to small businesses and entrepreneurs.

“Business ownership has always been an essential avenue for wealth creation in the U.S. However, access to

capital remains a persistent challenge to growing successful ventures, especially those owned by women and People of Color.” said Dr. Lomax R. Campbell, president and CEO, Third Eye Network. “With our examination of its financial ecosystem, we hope the city and its resource partners are better positioned to raise awareness of available financial resources and clarify support pathways for Holyoke’s diverse small business community.”

Working with partners like HG&E, the Greater Holyoke Chamber of Commerce, EForAll and others, the final report highlights the opportunities and needs to address funding gaps in starting a business in Holyoke.

This tool, Assessing the Field of Capital for Businesses in the Paper

City, is available on the OPED website <https://www.holyoke.org/studies-and-working-plans/> and provides information on a number of grant and loan options.

“Our efforts to revive High and Main Street are intertwined with our efforts to support small business development.” Aaron Vega, Director of OPED said “the obstacle to capital is far too often the obstacle that stops small business growth. This report provides a roadmap for startups and small businesses to find the capital and ultimately make their dream a reality.”

For more information, please contact the Office of Planning and Economic Development

[keittj@holyoke.org](mailto:keittj@holyoke.org) or [vegaa@holyoke.org](mailto:vegaa@holyoke.org) (413) 322-5655.

## City Hall to host Hanukkah observance

HOLYOKE – A Hanukkah observance organized by Congregation Sons of Zion will be held at Holyoke City Hall, 536 Dwight St., on Thursday, Dec. 7, at 5:30 p.m. The public is invited.

This eighth annual celebration at City Hall will include the lighting of the Menorah, speakers, songs, and refreshments. There will be dreidels and gelt for children.

Hanukkah begins at sundown on Dec. 7 and ends the evening of Friday, Dec. 15. For more information, please visit [office@sonsofzionholyoke.org](mailto:office@sonsofzionholyoke.org) or call 413-534-3369.

## About the fairness of WEP and GPO



Dear Rusty

I was married to my ex-husband for 30 years. For 14 of those years, I was an unemployed mom and community volunteer. After my sons were grown, I began teaching in California and earned a teacher pension. That teacher pension eliminates all the spousal benefits my husband paid for. How can that be justified? I, like a number of my retired friends, rent out rooms in my house to be able to live on a small teacher's pension and get none of my earned spousal benefits.

Signed: Frustrated Teacher

Dear Frustrated Teacher

I can only say that your frustration is shared by many retirees from public service in States, which do not participate in the federal Social Security program, that is, neither the employee nor the State contribute to the federal Social Security program. There are about 26 states including California, which exempt at least some of their employees and themselves from paying Social Security payroll taxes, but those states are obligated to provide retirement benefits robust enough to offset the loss of Social Security benefits, which will occur later in life after the employee retires.

As controversial as these laws - the

Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset are, they have withstood legal challenges since they were enacted four decades ago. Because you have a "non-covered" pension from your state employment, WEP reduces any personal Social Security retirement benefit you may have earned elsewhere and, to your specific point, the GPO has eliminated the spousal benefit you might otherwise have been entitled to from your ex-husband.

Like you, many who are affected believe this to be unfair, but Congress has steadfastly failed to enact legislation to repeal these provisions or even to soften their impact. The likely reason is that Congress has evaluated the fundamental premise of the provisions and concluded they appropriately equalize the way benefits are paid to all Social Security beneficiaries.

It might help to think of it this way: in normal circumstances, if one spouse has a personally earned Social Security retirement benefit, which is more than 50% of their partner's Full Retirement Age amount, no spousal benefit is paid (the spouse benefit is offset by the recipient's own SS retirement benefit).

The GPO, the provision which affects SS spousal and survivor benefits) applies that same logic for a spouse who has a "non-covered" pension earned outside of the Social Security program, their spousal benefit is offset by the amount of the person's own "non-covered" retirement pension. The one difference is that the GPO offset is actually a bit smaller (2/3rds of the non-covered pension vs. 100% offset for a spouse with their

own SS retirement benefit).

Both WEP, which reduces SS retirement benefits and the GPO, which reduces spousal or survivor benefits, are consequences of working for a State which has chosen to not participate in the federal Social Security program, and those states are obligated to inform their employees of those consequences. I know that doesn't make your situation any less frustrating, but Congress "justifies" these provisions as being necessary to equalize how benefits are paid to all Social Security beneficiaries.

There are about 2 million beneficiaries affected by WEP and over 700,000 affected by the GPO, most of whom share your displeasure. Nevertheless, Congress has so far maintained both these provisions as originally enacted. If you wish to add your voice to those who believe WEP and GPO are unfair, you may wish to contact your federal Congressional Representatives to express that point.

*The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit [amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org). Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.*



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## Christmas-time questions for the Garden Lady



A reader from Palmer wrote in with this holiday question for the Garden Lady: "I enjoyed your wreath-making column last week. I thought it was interesting that you advised scouring the landscape for suitable greenery. Overgrown boxwood shrubs are plentiful at home. Can I harvest the tips for making my own holiday wreaths and swags? If so, how do I ensure that the shrubs look good come spring?"

Yes, you can certainly harvest boxwood, especially since your plants are considered "overgrown." A haircut doesn't sound as if it will do much harm, even though it's the off season.

Rather than snip just the tips, however, insert your clippers further into the plant where the growth has become woody. Cutting deeper in several random spots will make

"windows" for new growth, at a reduced size!

The addition of boxwoods to your wreaths, planter boxes and swags will offer a nice variation in texture to coarser greenery.

Tabletop "trees" made almost entirely out of boxwood make great Christmas centerpieces.

Here is how you do it, straight from the archives: Cut a piece of wet floral foam into an elongated triangle and secure it in your container of choice. I prefer to use a plastic centerpiece base available from the florist - the bottom of the foam fits in perfectly.

From your collection of boxwood or other greens, choose a nice, pointed piece for the top of the tree and place it into the foam an inch or so; three or four inches will be left sticking out the top. If leaves or other stems along the branch are in the way of insertion, remove them first so that the smallest hole possible will be made in the foam.

Now, gauge the size of the rest of your tree by inserting pieces of greenery at the halfway point as well as at the very bottom.

After that, fill in between the top and middle and middle and bottom, turning the foam as you go, so that a multidimensional tree results. Once greenery completely covers the foam, you can decorate it any way you like.

Tiny glass balls, battery-powered lights, dried cranberries or cinnamon sticks are just a few options. Don't forget to water the tree at the base - the foam will absorb moisture and keep the greens hydrated for weeks of enjoyment.

Marissa, who reads the Ware River News, posed this timely question concerning flowering gifts. "I purchased an amaryllis kit as a gift for my sister. Do you have any tips for to make sure it grows and flowers well?"

Sure! As long as the amaryllis bulb is dry and free of soft spots it should bloom just fine. Like other flowering bulbs, the amaryllis is a self-contained unit ready to do its thing!

Just follow these simple planting instructions: fill the container with moistened growing medium to about one-half to two-thirds full. Position the bulb on top and add the rest of the potting soil - the upper portion and the neck should rest just above the rim of the pot.

The bulb may rot if it stays too wet, so add water only when the soil dries out. Temperatures should be kept around 60 degrees.

Once the sprouting occurs, fertilizer can be added, but the amaryllis will likely bloom well without it. Stake heavy flower stalks as they form to prevent them from snapping.

Keep blooms looking their best for the greatest amount of time by pinching away anthers before they form pollen, and by housing the plant in a cool room of the house.

Pet owners be forewarned, toxic alkaloids present in these tennis ball-sized bulbs can cause vomiting and diarrhea in animals who have consumed them. Dogs, who are more likely to play with and chew objects this size, are at greater risk.

Purdue University states that the stomach upset will likely cure itself within a few hours, but that special medical attention should be given to weak, old, or otherwise in-firmed dogs who have come in contact with amaryllis bulbs.

*Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to [pouimette@turley.com](mailto:pouimette@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.*

## A Quote

OF NOTE

"It is better to fail in originality than to succeed in limitation."

Herman Melville

## Letters to the Editor Policy

Letters to the Editor have a maximum of 350 words. We require writers to include their name, address and phone number in order for our office to authenticate authorship prior to publication. Addresses and phone numbers are not published.

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions. Libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks or defamation of character are not allowed.

Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon.

Please email (preferred) letters to [thesun@turley.com](mailto:thesun@turley.com). Mailed letters can be sent to The Sun, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.



## Yuletree Jubilee now underway

WEST SPRINGFIELD – Starting Friday, Nov. 20, the Red Thread Network for the arts will host the Seventh Annual Yuletree Jubilee in the West Springfield Public Library Community Room, 200 Park Ave. Admission is free.

Twenty two trees, decorated and donated by local businesses, organizations and individuals, will be displayed and raffled off for 10 days to the delight of visitors. The hours are Thursday, Friday, Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. The drawing will take place on Sunday, Dec. 3 at 2 p.m. For More information contact Jane at janetrompe@comcast.net or log on to the web page [www.redthread-networkforthearts.org](http://www.redthread-networkforthearts.org) or visit our Facebook page Yuletree Jubilee.

## Tasting fundraiser, silent auction to be held Thursday at City Hall

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Rotary Club has announced the return of Eat, Drink, and Be Holyoke, their premier tasting fundraiser and silent auction on Thursday, Dec. 7. The event will take place at the Holyoke City Hall Ballroom at 5:30 p.m. following the sealing of the Holyoke 150th Anniversary time capsule.

“We are proud to bring back Eat, Drink, and Be Holyoke and excited to be the final event of the Holyoke 150th Anniversary celebrations,” said Barbara Baran, co-president of the Holyoke Rotary Club. “Our community has a long and rich history and the Holyoke Rotary Club is proud to be a part of it since 1915.”

Eat, Drink, and Be Holyoke will feature food prepared by 110 Grill, Amedeo’s, Crave, Fame, Hamel’s Summit View, Iona’s Kitchen, Kate’s Kitchen, Pics Pub, Rusty’s Place, White Hut,

and Woodstone Tavern. Additionally, Brennan’s Place will be providing various alcohol tastings from local and regional breweries, wineries, and distilleries.

Tickets are \$50 and can be purchased online at <https://EDBH.eventbrite.com>.

Proceeds will go towards supporting Rotary projects, mostly within the Holyoke Rotary district of Holyoke, South Hadley, and Granby. Ongoing Holyoke Rotary projects include providing several annual scholarships, providing food for those in need through community collaborations, and funding international clean water initiatives.

Eat, Drink & Be Holyoke is sponsored by platinum sponsor Holyoke Medical Center, and silver sponsors Center for School Crisis Intervention & Assessment, Dowd Insurance, Marcotte Ford, and PeoplesBank.

## Applications now being accepted for Grand Colleen

HOLYOKE – The St. Patrick’s Committee of Holyoke will present the 2024 Grand Colleen Pageant on Jan. 6, 2024, at Holyoke High School at 7 p.m. and are accepting applications now through Dec. 27. Eligibility requirements are: must be female, single, (never have been married or have had a child), no less than 17 years old by March 17, 2024 and a senior in high school; no more than 24 years old by March 17, 2024 (age requirement for 2024 only and will revert back to 22 in 2025), resident of Holyoke or South Hadley, must claim Irish ancestry, completion of a resume.

We look forward to receiving your application and resumes.

Applications are available online at: [holyokestpatricksparade.com](http://holyokestpatricksparade.com). Contestant Orientation and Tea is scheduled for Dec. 30 at 11 a.m. at Wyckoff Country Club.

For questions or concerns contact Kathy Dulchinos, Colleen Coordinator at 413-592-4945.



## HCC opens registration for Spring 2024 noncredit classes

HOLYOKE – Spread the joy of lifelong learning this holiday season by giving the gift of a short-term, noncredit class at Holyoke Community College.

The HCC Business & Community Services division has opened registration for its Spring 2024 catalog of personal enrichment and professional development classes.

The spring calendar begins Jan. 29, with individual classes running on different schedules throughout the spring semester. Many are available as single sessions that cost as little as \$39.

Personal enrichment classes for spring include piano lessons, dance, acrylic painting, watercolor painting, pen and ink drawing, sewing, digital photography, voiceover coaching, conversational Spanish, French, and Polish, Spanish for healthcare workers, wine tasting, cooking, and bartending.

In the professional development area, HCC is offering classes in cannabis core training, Microsoft Office, QuickBooks, ServSafe, K-12 continuing education, investment strategies, trusts, and estate planning, as well as

certification programs for people interested in becoming medical interpreters, real estate salespersons, or notary publics.

Most classes meet in the Kittredge Center for Business and Workforce Development on the main HCC campus, 303 Homestead Ave. Cooking, wine tasting, and bartending classes meet at the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute, 164 Race St.

To see complete spring course listings and schedules, or to register, please visit [hcc.edu/bcs](http://hcc.edu/bcs).

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# In The News

## WAGES, from page 1

time I started off on my first day of school. I've been told many times that this circumstance is unusual and not the norm, however being in my third year of teaching says otherwise."

Bagg is not the only one with this experience. Several other teachers and paras shared their stories of paras being placed into an educator position, while still earning the wages of a para.

"Our wages don't match our work-

load, we literally have been pulled out of classrooms to be in classrooms, to support kids in classrooms, support kids in the office," Paraprofessional Antonio Robles said. "We get beat up, I'm sorry to say, I get scratched, I get bit, I get punched."

Paraprofessionals are asking for this increase in wages so that they can stay in Holyoke. Many of them have to work two jobs just to stay afloat and have seen their colleagues leave the city due to the low wages.

According to newly elected City

Councilor Patty Devine, the paraprofessionals have not received a wage increase in three years. Those supporting the paras ask for an increase to be granted to them so that they can continue to support the students as best they can.

"I want my students to be the same but how can I expect my students to be the same when our teachers and our paras are leaving just because we're not valued?" Robles asked.

Those gathered implore the school committee to help them advocate to the state for this wage increase so that the

paras can make a liveable wage and continue to provide their invaluable work to the school system.

"When we talk about quality of life, let us not forget that quality of life starts in schools, with the quality of education," Newly Elected School Committee Member Gloria Caballero Roca said. "The quality of life that we should be investing in is the people who make sure that our students move on in life. If we really want it to be good in Holyoke, let us work together and let us value those who work harder than us."

## BUDGET, from page 1

do is go back and go through the sewer analysis study."

However, as Councilor Joseph McGiverin pointed out, these funds were allocated to cover an on-going deficit in the sewer budget.

"One problem with the sewer budget right now is that it is running a deficit," McGiverin said. "There was a deficit in fiscal year 2023 that is going to be taken off the recap sheet and there is a current, very high deficit in fiscal 2024. Whatever we don't make up as far as that deficit goes is going to be placed on the property tax owners' backs as opposed to the rate-payers."

McGiverin believed that keeping the \$135,000 would potentially help to reduce this deficit and save some money for the property tax owners.

Councilors Jourdain and Vacon pointed out that there were several one-time expenses in recent years that have affected the balance of the sewer fund. According to them, these one-time expenses do not warrant a permanent increase in the sewer budget.

"In FY22 we would have had a \$400,000 surplus but because we had some one-time expenses it went to a \$350,000 deficit," Jourdain said. "That's not recurring."

Jourdain also said that by taking the \$135,000 out of the budget now it is technically reducing the on-paper deficit.

"This technically, by reducing this now would reduce the deficit in that account by \$135,000," he said. "It's reducing the earmark of appropriation to that department by \$135,000."

This cut passed 7-5, with Councilors Vacon, David Bartley, Jourdain, Todd McGee, McGiverin, Puello and Peter Tallman voting in favor and Councilors Juan Anderson-Burgos, Kocayne Givner, Jose Maldonado Velez, Tessa Murphy-Romboletti and Jenny Rivera voting against.

The council also cut the \$1 million allocated for Ezekiel's Plan from the budget, as there is already a transfer going to the finance committee for those funds.

The council did not want to have an additional \$1 million in the budget when this transfer is already in committee.

The plan is for the council to discuss Ezekiel's Plan and this transfer further through a finance committee meeting.

"The plan itself is a solid proposal for police work and it is certainly something that should be and will be looked at a little bit more" McGiverin said.

According to McGiverin, at the finance committee meeting in which the supplemental budget was discussed, there were concerns raised about the type of revenue used to fund Ezekiel's Plan.

"The concerns that a number of us expressed was within the plan the revenue used is an additional revenue source, not traditional revenue," he said. "It's not property tax, rather it's ARPA funds."

The issue with using ARPA funds for Ezekiel's Plan is that these funds are limited. Holyoke will not continue to receive these funds indefinitely, as they were given by the state in intent for relief due to economic impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic.

If the plan is funded solely on ARPA funds, councilors were concerned about how they would continue to fund the plan once they stopped receiving those funds.

This issue will be further discussed at an upcoming finance committee meeting.

For the moment, the council passed the cut 9-3, with only Councilors Givner, Maldonado Velez and Jenny Rivera voting no. Councilor Israel Rivera was not present for this vote.

On top of the cut of the entirety of Ezekiel's Plan, the council also voted 8-5 to cut the \$35,000 set aside for a crime assessor.

Vacon, Anderson-Burgos, Bartley, Jourdain, Maldonado Velez, McGee, Puello and Israel Rivera all voted to cut the funds for this position. Givner, McGiverin, Murphy-Romboletti, Jenny Rivera and Tallman voted against cutting the funds.

This was cut as the council cannot fund a position that has not yet been created, and the crime assessor position will not be created until Ezekiel's Plan is in place.

Therefore, the crime assessor position will be discussed with the rest of Ezekiel's Plan at the finance committee meeting.

To learn more about the initial supplemental budget proposed by Garcia, go to <https://www.holyoke.org/mayors-proposed-fy24-supplemental-budget/>.

## SHELTERS, from page 1

is insane because we've got such a long time period that these individuals who want to work, cannot work, are not self-sufficient, so for all intents and purposes it is going to be entirely based on state funding."

Essentially, with the migrants unable to work, they are forced to stay at the emergency shelters where the state has to continue to send funds to support them.

Velis argues that should the government assist in funding and expediting these processes, the immigrants will be able to begin working and move out on their own.

"If you follow the logic, if people are granted work visas sooner than they can move out of the hotels and we can stop spending all this state money," Velis said.

Currently, acquiring a court date for their asylum claim alone can take years. Velis met one person who didn't have a date until 2027.

"Let's take that person who doesn't have a court date until 2027," Velis said, "They're here for 150 days before they can even put in for their work permit and then that work permit takes an incredibly long time period. So what does that leave folks with?"

Due to this, without the federal government expediting the process, many of the migrant people are unable to get themselves on their feet.

This leaves, as stated by Velis, the state to entirely fund the process.

"It is a broken model that is not sustainable," Velis said. "So I'm saying to myself even if work permits are something governed entirely by the federal government, I'm of the opinion that we should look beyond that."

Velis wants to try to push for getting the migrants a state right to work so that they are able to get on their feet and start earning their own money.

"So it's less tax-payer funded money and it's better for the individuals in question," Velis said. "And it's completely consistent with what the migrants want, they want to work."

He is going about doing this by talking to the Healey administration,

talking to legislative leadership and giving his observations and insights on the flaws he has seen.

However, there is only so much he can do as a state senator.

"I'm trying to come up with creative solutions but every one of my solutions that I come up with again runs into that same road block of we can't do this without the feds," Velis said. "It's really a clarion call, 'federal government help us out.'"

Velis and many other state officials have repeatedly requested aid from the federal government in regards to this issue. In fact, they sent a letter that was signed by nearly the entire legislation to the government asking for assistance.

Velis promises to continue working hard on this issue. He was dedicated to the cause prior to activation, but speaking with the different families has moved him to work harder.

"Just hearing some of their stories and their journeys to get here really just tugs at the heartstrings," Velis said.

He will continue providing his insights and drafting legislation to try to assist those in need.

Velis asks for support from everyone in the Commonwealth with this issue.

"We need to find a way to try to get everybody to help out as much as we can," Velis said. "Without the federal government weighing in on this, this isn't going away."

So many people have already been donating their clothes and food to assist those in need. Velis found that to be one of the most moving things while he was activated.

"I really saw some of the best of humanity, all on a volunteer basis," Velis said. "Even people who were vehemently opposed to everything that is going on with immigration... would come and drop off a diaper."

Velis just asks that people keep that giving spirit and that they keep pushing for the federal government to begin to assist with this issue.

Holyoke has been among the community to welcome migrants and attempt to find shelters for them. But capacity has run out throughout the state.

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# SPORTS

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## Holyoke falls to South Hadley on Turkey Day

HOLYOKE – Last Thursday morning at a sun-splashed Roberts Sports Complex, South Hadley won the “Battle of the Bridge” with a big win over Holyoke 20-6.

All of the scoring took place in the second half as the Tigers scored a touchdown in the third quarter to take the lead. Holyoke would score in the fourth, but the Tigers managed a pair

of touchdowns to get the game out of reach late.

For Holyoke, Nathan Pok had a 10-for-25 day passing for 133 yards. Owen Dawson led South Hadley with 142 yards rushing on 19 carries with two touchdowns.

Noah Marion scored a touchdown for the Tigers as well and Julius Hebenth had 69 yards rushing.



Jaden Diaz makes a tackle.



Nathan Pok throws the screen pass.  
Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Jayden Cauley-Guzman tries to avoid a tackle.



Jayden Cauley-Guzman navigates through the middle.



Alexander Robles goes for a tackle.



Jaylene Moquin represented a Holyoke girls soccer team that made it to the state tournament this season in last week's all-star game. Turley photos by David Henry

## Moquin takes part in all-star event

SPRINGFIELD – Last Monday evening at Pope Francis High School, the Senior All-Star Games were held.

Two games took place, with Class C and D playing in one game and Class A and B playing in another.

The games featured the best senior players from all Western Mass. High School girls soccer programs.

## College: Owls pounce on Lyons

*Holyoke's Maddie Pond plays for the Owls*

WESTFIELD – Westfield State senior forward Jordan Grant (Gray, Maine) posted a game-high 17 points as twelve different Owls got in the scoring column as part of a 106-48 victory over Mount Holyoke College in a non-conference game from the Woodward Center in Westfield, Mass. on Tuesday night.

The Owls advance to 3-2 on the season, with the 106 points scored serving as a season high for Westfield in the early stages of the season. The Lyons fall to 0-5 on the year.

Defense and transition scoring was the winning formula for Westfield as the Owls

forced 16 first-quarter turnovers which resulted in a 22-point first period lead. Grant led the charge in the opening frame, leading the team with seven points while fronting the Owls press with three steals.

Westfield continued to extend the lead in the second quarter, opening the period on an 9-2 run with Jess Gardner (Webster, Mass.) jumpstarting the scoring burst with a triple, then layups from Grant, Morgan Berthiaume (Webster, Mass.), and Octaviana Williams (Springfield, Mass.) pushed the Owls out to a 37-9 lead with 5:58 to play in the half.

The Owls outscored the Lyons by seven points in the second quarter, taking a sizeable 29-point lead into halftime, ultimately sealing the victory.

Mount Holyoke opened the second half with terrific energy, with Emma Goff (Cohasset, Mass.) and Libby Harris (Foxborough, Mass.) combining for 15 of the Lyons 22 points in the third quarter, their most efficient shooting period of the night as a unit. However, the Westfield offense continued to strike as the Owls connected on 11 of 18 field goal attempts (61.1%) in the fourth quarter to extend their lead.

Hannah Sheldon (Taunton, Mass.) totaled a season-high 15 points to go along with five rebounds and three steals. Berthiaume added 14 points and piled up seven steals to pace the Owls defensive attack. Jordyn Lummus (Pittsfield, Mass.) con-

See OWLS, page 8

# Team effort results in big shutout of Utica

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (10-8-1-0) put together a total team effort and dominated the Utica Comets (6-6-3-0) in a 7-0 shutout win inside the MassMutual Center on Saturday night in the team's Hockey Fights Cancer game.

Vadim Zherenko got the start in the net for the T-Birds and had a perfect performance, stopping all 33 saves he faced on the night for his first career AHL shutout. In the opposite crease, Utica goaltender Isaac Poulter surrendered seven goals on 29 T-Birds shots in the loss.

It was a special night for the Bitten family, as the team donned lavender jerseys for the game to support Will and Sam Bitten and the Bitsy's Army cause. Bitsy's Army was created by the brothers to raise awareness for those battling cancer and to honor their late cousin Martin Piche. Piche tragically passed away from brain cancer back in 2021.

Springfield had several prime scoring opportunities in the opening minutes. Nathan Walker saw linemate Adam Gaudette sneak behind the Utica defense on the left side, threading the team's top scorer a perfect breakaway pass. Unfortunately, Gaudette's shot was

stopped by the left pad of Poulter.

The work of the Springfield penalty killers got their team on the board first. While creating pressure in Utica's zone, Walker found Matthew Peca for a one-timer in the high slot after stripping a Utica skater of the puck in the left-wing corner. The captain fired home a perfect one-timer for a shorthanded goal, his fifth goal of the year, which gave the T-Birds a 1-0 lead at 13:16. The score would remain 1-0 as the teams entered their dressing rooms for the first intermission.

Exactly halfway through the second period, the T-Birds struck once again. Defenseman Matthew Kessel controlled the puck at the blue line before firing a low shot toward Poulter. Although Poulter made the initial stop, MacKenzie MacEachern was there to backhand the rebound home for his fourth goal of the season to make it 2-0 Springfield. The scoring did not stop after MacEachern's goal. On a power play, Will Bitten snapped a shot on goal from the hash



marks. Poulter made the initial stop, but T-Birds forward Mikhail Abramov was there to clean up the rebound with a snapper from the left side. Abramov's goal made it 3-0 with 6:32 to go in the period.

As the period drew to a close, defenseman Dylan Coghlan was taken down from behind by Comets forward Kyle Criscuolo. In response, Wyatt Kalynuk stood up for his teammate and engaged in a fight with Criscuolo. Kalynuk's fight fired up his teammates and the crowd, but there would be mayhem that would follow. After a scrum ensued with multiple players going at it, Gaudette and Utica defenseman Cal Foote were given fighting majors with just 13 seconds left in the period. The T-Birds held on to the 3-0 lead, setting the stage for a third period out of the movies.

The T-Birds added to their 3-0 lead in the third, as Zach Dean ripped a shot home for his first professional goal of his career to make it 4-0 at 4:09 off a 2-on-1 rush. The scoring party would contin-

ue after Dean's goal, as Bolduc capitalized for Springfield's second power play marker of the night at 9:54, beating Poulter on the stick side with a perfectly placed wrister.

It was a poetic night for the Bitten family. With 7:02 to go in the game, Will took the puck and raced up ice before dancing around a Utica defender to go in alone on Poulter. Bitten faked a slapper before slipping a five-hole shot into the twine before pointing skyward in celebration. The poetic script got better just a few minutes later when Will tipped in a Coghlan shot for his second of the night. Sam also recorded a milestone on his brother's second tally, as he notched his first AHL point on the secondary assist.

After having just three points in his first 14 games of the season, Will tallied two goals and two assists on this night alone. It was one of five multi-point performances by Springfield skaters on the evening.

The T-Birds return home next Friday, December 1 for another Deuces Wild Friday to take on Wilkes-Barre/Scranton. Puck drop is set for 7:05 p.m. at the Thunderdome.

## Worcester Railers sweep Adirondack Thunder

GLENS FALLS, NY – The Worcester Railers HC (7-6-2-1, 17pts) took down the Adirondack Thunder (7-4-2-0, 16pts) on Saturday night by the final score of 4-2 in front of a crowd of 4,297 at Cool Insuring Arena. The Railers are back at home against the Kansas City Mavericks this Wednesday, November 29th at 10:05 a.m. ET.

Neither team scored in the first period as Tristan Lennox was excellent in net for Worcester in the first. He made 15 saves on 15 shots to open the game. Scoring opened in the second as Worcester's Anthony Callin (1-0-1) put Worcester ahead 1-0. Adirondack responded with two straight goals from Travis Broughman (1-0-1) and Yushiroh Hirano (1-0-1) to give the Thunder the 2-1 lead heading into the third. Worcester scored three unanswered in the third from Ashton Calder (1-0-1), Jake Pivonka (1-1-2), and Zach White (1-0-1) to seal the win and the weekend sweep, 4-2.

Both goalies were solid in the first period for Worcester and Adirondack as Tristan Lennox turned away 15 shots for the Railers, while Jeremy Brodeur made 7 saves for the Thunder. Two of Lennox's saves came in the dying seconds of the first as the Thunder headed down ice on an odd-man rush. Lennox sprawled across the ice and denied Travis Broughman with an outstretched right

leg to keep the game level going into the second.

Anthony Callin (4th) unleashed a perfect wrist shot from atop the right circle on a spinning feed from Todd Goehring to give the Railers the first goal of the game. Both Callin and Goehring now have points in four straight games. The Thunder struck back with two straight goals to wrap up the second. Travis Broughman (2nd) picked up a Grant Jozefek rebound and deked around Lennox to tie the game 1-1. Four minutes later, Yushiroh Hirano (6th) scored on the power play in his third straight game, putting the Thunder ahead 2-1 going into the third.

Ashton Calder (8th) extended his team lead in goals thanks to a great forecheck from Worcester. Keeghan Howdeshell and Jake Pivonka forced the Thunder defense to turn over the puck. As Howdeshell found it beneath the goal line, he passed it to Calder in front who beat Brodeur five-hole to tie the game 2-2. Jake Pivonka (7th) found the puck alone in the slot about a minute later and beat Brodeur clean glove side to make it a 3-2 Railers lead. Zach White would finish things off with an empty-net goal with just 6.9 seconds left to give Worcester the 4-2 win, picking up all four points this weekend and sweeping the Thunder in Glens Falls.

## UMass hosting Pioneer Valley Tip-Off

AMHERST – The Pioneer Valley Tip-Off is a student-run high school basketball showcase featuring some of the best talent in Central and Western Massachusetts. The PVTO was started in 2011 by Scott Moses and Pat Salle, both students at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst and it continues to be entirely student-run by the McCormack Student Leaders Club today.

The PVTO is held each December on the University of Massachusetts Amherst campus, where we strive to create a professional environment for fans and players alike. This year's event will be held on Dec. 9 and 10 and will feature teams from throughout the region. A schedule is online at [www.pioneervalleytip-off.com](http://www.pioneervalleytip-off.com). All games will be held at the Mullins Center on the UMass-Amherst campus.

## Papermen to join Union Hockey League

HOLYOKE – Brian Pratt, president of the Holyoke Papermen Hockey Club, recently announced his team's participation in the newly-formed Union Hockey League. The UHL consists of 16 teams in the northeast and Midwest and is a senior level semi professional league. Pratt said the Papermen are putting together their roster at this point.

"We have 14 skaters and two goalies signed, looking to add about 8 more players," Pratt said. "We have four pre-season games in December and 20 regular season games starting Jan 5."

The schedule for the league has not been released yet and Pratt did not say where the Papermen would be playing their home games. Closest to Holyoke are Fitzpatrick Rink, state-run facility right in Holyoke next to Holyoke High School's Roberts Sports Complex, and nearby is Olympia Ice Center in West Springfield. More information will be forthcoming about the team and the new league as the Papermen prepare to participate in the new league. For more information, go to: <https://www.unionhockey-league.com/>.

### OWLS, from page 7

tributed 14 points as well for an Owls team that had balanced scoring throughout the evening.

Harris was the Lyons leading scorer on the night with 13 points. Goff regis-

tered ten points and eight rebounds with Teal Howle (Florence, S.C.) adding eight points.

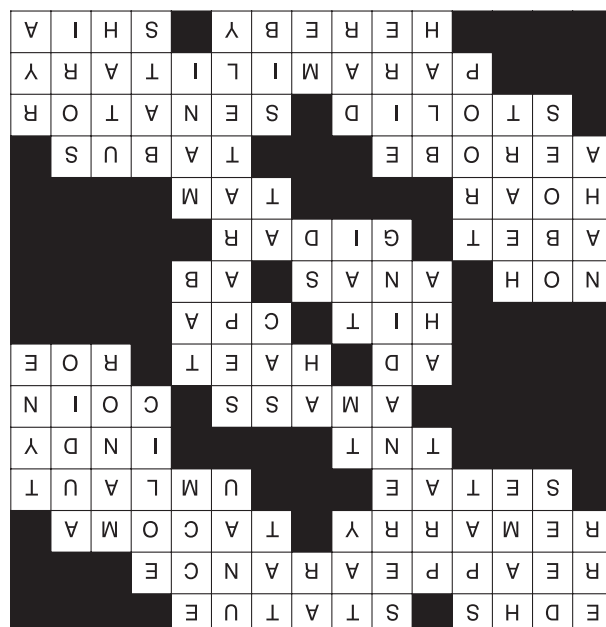
Westfield set season highs in field goal efficiency (46.2%) and three-point percentage (31.0%). The Owls feasted in transition as well, generating 32 fast break points and 43 points off turnovers.

## Scholarship applications are now being accepted

HOLYOKE – The Polish Junior League of Massachusetts welcomes area college students of Polish heritage to apply for one of the annual academic scholarships.

Students must have a permanent address in one of the four Western Massachusetts counties: Hampshire, Hampden, Franklin or Berkshire. Application forms with related information are available at [www.polishjuniorleaguema.org/applications](http://www.polishjuniorleaguema.org/applications).

The deadline for all applications and related materials is May 1, 2024.



## PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to [notices@turley.com](mailto:notices@turley.com)
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit [www.publicnotices.turley.com](http://www.publicnotices.turley.com)



**City of Holyoke  
Notice of Public Hearing**

The DGR Committee of the Holyoke City Council will hold a public hearing on **Monday, December 18, at 6:30 p.m.** to hear a special permit application of James Kay per 7.2.1 to operate a gasoline station and convenience store at 820 High Street (009-02-009) Meeting will take place at Holyoke City Hall 536 Dwight St and can be accessed remotely via [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us) Meeting ID 863 3911 0441 Meeting Passcode 232763 or by call in at 1-646-558-8656 with same Meeting ID and Passcode. For an electronic copy of this application or to provide comments for the public hearing, please contact City Council Admin Asst Jeffery Anderson-Burgos at [Anderson-BurgosJ@holyoke.org](mailto:Anderson-BurgosJ@holyoke.org) or by phone 413-322-5525.

DGR Chair  
Tessa Murphy-Romboletti  
12/01, 12/08/2023

**City of Holyoke  
PUBLIC HEARING  
NOTICE**

The Holyoke Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Friday, December 15, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom.com**; ID 878 9564 1765; Call In \*67 646 558 8656 to appeal the classification determination letter dated September 21, 2023 from Section 2.0 Definitions and Section 7.2.2 Bulk Fuel, oil, gas, coal storage or distribution operation, submitted by Bear Properties, LLC for the property located at 115 Whiting Farms Road (115-00-002).

A complete copy of the application may be seen in the Office of Planning & Economic Development, 20 Korean Veterans Plaza, Rm 401, 8:30-4:30, M-F.

Petition #970  
Board of Appeals:  
Josh Knox, Chair  
12/01, 12/08/2023

**City of Holyoke  
Office of Purchasing  
536 Dwight Street, Room 3  
Holyoke, MA 01040  
IFB 2024-31SD Dust  
Collection System Dean  
Tech High School DCAMM  
in General Building  
Construction Required**

Labor, Materials, Removal and Installation of New System for a Ducted outdoor rated dust collector with return air components for Dean Tech High School. Must be NFPA 664 Standard Compliance. A walkthrough will be held on 12/12/2023 at 10AM at the Dean Tech High School. Documents are available on 11/29/2023 at 1pm in person from the purchasing office or electronically by emailing [sweeneye@holyoke.org](mailto:sweeneye@holyoke.org). Bids will be received until January 4th, 2024 at 2PM where they will be publicly opened and read. No electronic submissions will be allowed. The city reserves the right to reject any and all bids. This project is funded using Federal Funds. Respondents will be verified for eligibility to receive Federal Funds and must comply with all Federal Requirements including Part 200.

12/01/2023

**City of Holyoke  
Notice of Public Hearing**

The Holyoke License Board will be holding a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, December 6, 2023, at 5:15 p.m.** You can join via [Zoom.com](http://Zoom.com); ID **86978756060**; CALL IN:

\*67 646 558 8656 or in person at **City Hall Annex 20 Korean Veterans Plaza Room 403**, regarding the application for a **Change of Location, Change of License Type and Transfer of an All Annual All Alcohol Liquor License (On-Premises) from A&A Fernandez Inc. DBA Fernandez Family Restaurant, at 161 High Street, to Acemar Leasing Inc. DBA Deja-Vu NightSpot at 414 High Street** pursuant to M.G.L. Ch.138.

Applicant:  
Jazmin Acevedo Martinez  
License Board:  
Anthony Luciano,  
Chairman  
11/24, 12/01/2023

**Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and  
Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758**

**Docket No. HD15P2415EA  
Estate of:  
Francis S Gruszka  
Date of Death: 10/07/2015  
CITATION ON  
PETITION FOR  
ORDER OF COMPLETE  
SETTLEMENT**

A Petition for **Order of Complete Settlement** has been filed by **Michael A Gruszka of Holyoke, MA** requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account, a determination of heirs at law and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
**You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/27/2023.**

**This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.**

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: November 24, 2023  
**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
12/01/2023

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
THE TRIAL COURT  
HAMPDEN, Div.  
Probate & Family Court  
Dept. HD23E0057PP**

To *Richard F Kmon of Holyoke, in the County of Hampden, and to all other persons interested.*

A petition has been presented to said Court by Elizabeth M. Kmon, of Yarmouth Port, in the County of Barnstable, representing that they hold as joint tenants in an undivided part or share of land lying in Holyoke, in the County of Hampden, setting forth that they desire that all of said land may be sold at a private sale or public auction for not less than Two Hundred Ninety Thousand (\$290,000.00) Dollars, and praying that partition may be made of all the land aforesaid according to law, and to that end that a commissioner be

appointed to make such partition and be ordered to make sale and conveyance of all, or any part of said land which the Court finds cannot be advantageously divided either at private sale or public auction, and be ordered to distribute the net proceeds thereof after full adjudication of the equitable claims contained in said petition and supplemental memorandum filed with the Court.

If you desire to object thereto, you or your attorney, should file a written appearance in said Court at Springfield before ten o'clock in the morning on the **twenty-second day of January 2024**, the return day of this citation.

Witness, **BARBARA M. HYLAND**, Esquire, First Justice of said Court, this 20th day of November 2023.

**Rosemary A. Saccomani**,  
Register  
12/01, 12/08, 12/15/2023

**Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampden Probate and  
Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758**

**Docket No. HD23A0050AD  
In the matter of:  
Keiralyz Liabet Ortiz  
Martinez  
CITATION  
G.L. c. 210, §6**

TO:  
Daniel Ortiz  
any unnamed or unknown parent and persons interested in a petition for the adoption of said child and to the Department of Children and Families of said Commonwealth.

A petition has been presented to said court by:

**Kiara Maris Martinez Melendez of Holyoke, MA  
Jose Fernando Rebollar Maldonado of Holyoke, MA** requesting for leave to adopt said child and that the name of the child be changed to

**Keiralyz Rebollar Martinez**  
**If you object to this adoption you are entitled to the appointment of an attorney if you are an indigent person.**

An indigent person is defined by SJC Rule 3:10. The definition includes but is not limited to persons receiving TAFDC, EACDC, poverty related veteran's benefits, Medicaid, and SSI. The Court will determine if you are indigent. Contact an Assistant Judicial Case Manager or Adoption Clerk of the Court on or before the date listed below to obtain the necessary forms.

IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT **Springfield ON OR BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING (10:00 AM) ON: ON OR BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING (10:00 AM) ON: 12/22/2023.**

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: November 14, 2023  
**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
11/24, 12/01, 12/08/2023

**Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and  
Family Court  
50 State Street**

**Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758  
Docket No. HD23C0344CA  
In the matter of:  
Sarah Kathryn O'Shea  
CITATION ON PETITION  
TO CHANGE NAME**

A **Petition to Change Name of Adult** has been filed by **Sarah Kathryn O'Shea of Holyoke, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

**Sal Kathryn O'Shea**  
**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/19/2023.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: November 21, 2023  
**Rosemary A Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
12/01/2023

**Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and  
Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758**

**Docket No. HD23C0337CA  
In the matter of:  
Janeysha Ivelisse Amarat  
Ortiz  
CITATION ON PETITION  
TO CHANGE NAME**

A **Petition to Change Name of Minor** has been filed by **Janeysha Ivelisse**

**Amarat Ortiz of Holyoke, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

**Janeysha Iveliss Gonzales Ortiz**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/08/2023.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

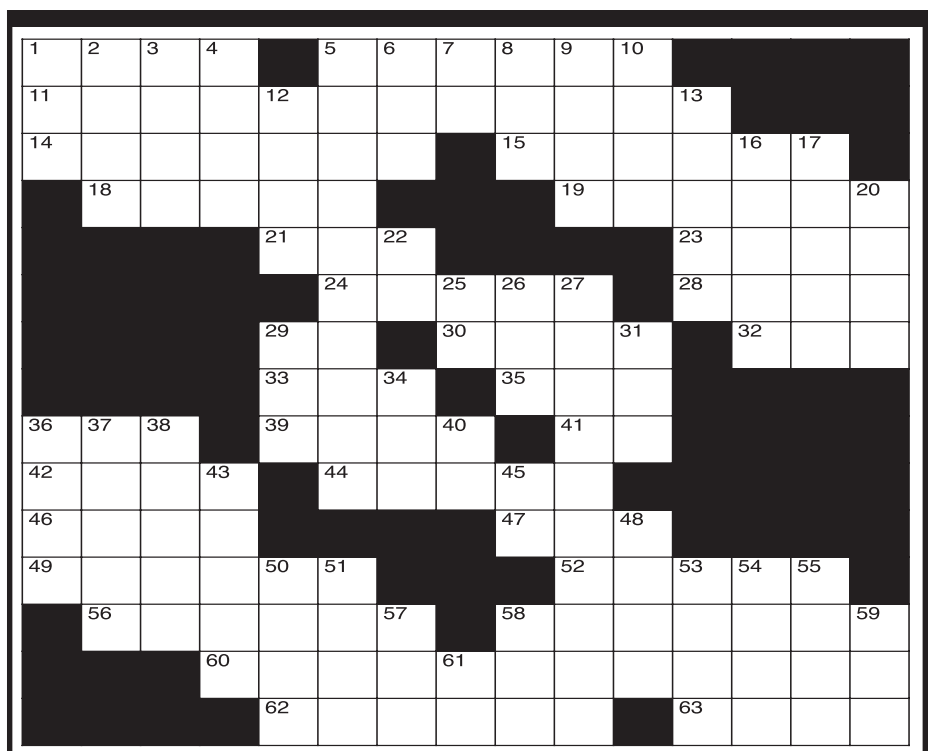
Date: November 10, 2023  
**Rosemary A Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
12/01/2023

**City of Holyoke  
Office of Purchasing  
536 Dwight Street,  
Room 3  
Holyoke, MA 01040  
Invitation to Bid  
2024-35 GC and  
Filed Sub bids  
Peck Middle School  
\*\*PRE QUALIFIED  
GC & SUB BIDDERS  
ONLY\*\* DCAMM  
GENERAL BUILDING  
CONSTRUCTION**

The City of Holyoke is accepting bids in accordance with MGL CH.149 for General Contract pre-qualified trade contractors only for the GC & FSB prequalification's from 2024-16 for the New Peck Middle School. Only Pre Qualified Bidders may submit bids. A Pre Bid Conference will be held at

the Peck Middle School located at 1916 Northampton Street, Holyoke, MA 01040; Date and Time to be determined and will be issued via Addendum. This project is being managed by our OPM Anser Advisory. All documents are available through [biddocs.com](http://biddocs.com) Documents for all categories of filed sub bids will be available on 11/30/2023. Documents for Pre Qualified General Contractors will be available on 12/6/2023. The bidding deadline for Pre Qualified is on 12/28/2023 at 4PM where results will be available on [biddocs.com](http://biddocs.com). The bidding deadline for General Contract is on 01/11/2024 at 4PM where results will be available on [biddocs.com](http://biddocs.com). Estimated cost for construction is \$61,200,000.00. The city reserves the right to reject any and all bids.  
12/01, 12/08, 12/15/2023

**Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.**



- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Old English letters
  - 5. Sculpture
  - 11. Showing up again
  - 14. Tie the knot again
  - 15. Washington city
  - 18. Stiff structures in invertebrates
  - 19. Mark over a vowel
  - 21. Explosive
  - 23. Popular race: \_\_\_ 500
  - 24. Pile up
  - 28. Mint
  - 29. Commercial
  - 30. A minute amount (Scottish)
  - 32. Small Eurasian deer
  - 33. Baseball stat
  - 35. Numbers cruncher
  - 36. Japanese masked drama
  - 39. Gasteyer and de
  - 41. Blood group
  - 42. Assist in wrongdoing
  - 44. Language spoken in Cameroon and Chad
  - 46. Grayish-white
  - 47. A woolen cap of Scottish origin
  - 49. Microorganism
  - 52. Place under prohibition
  - 56. Calm, dependable
  - 58. Congressman
  - 60. Force
  - 62. As a result of this document
  - 63. One of two main branches of Islam
  - 3. Geographical region of Finland
  - 4. Ejected saliva
  - 5. A way of performing
  - 6. Scotland's longest river
  - 7. One of the six noble gases (abbr.)
  - 8. Body art
  - 9. Two-toed sloth
  - 10. Electronic counter-measures
  - 12. Foolish person (Brit.)
  - 13. Of the wind
  - 16. Grand home
  - 17. Sound
  - 20. English river
  - 22. Symbol indicating ownership
  - 25. Exclamation of surprise
  - 26. Pouch
  - 27. Apart from
  - 29. Satisfaction
  - 31. The bill in a restaurant
  - 34. Sea bream
  - 36. Port in southern Japan
  - 37. Double-reed instruments
  - 38. Center
  - 40. South Dakota
  - 43. An orderly crowd
  - 45. Indicates position
  - 48. \_\_\_-pedi
  - 50. Nonsense (slang)
  - 51. Republic of Ireland
  - 53. Nocturnal flyers
  - 54. American state
  - 55. Clusters in fern fronds
  - 57. Patriotic women
  - 58. A person's brother or sister
  - 59. Breed of sheep
  - 61. Popular film "Despicable \_\_\_"

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 8

# Classifieds

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Cellars, attics, garages cleaned, yard debris. Barns & sheds demolished. Swimming pools removed. Cheaper than dumpster fees and we do all the work. Lowest rates. Fully insured. (413)283-6512, cell (413)222-8868.

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## SERVICES

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**HOME REPAIR & REMODELING** for all your interior & exterior needs. Carpentry, woodworking, porches, patios, windows, doors, painting, drywall, siding, landscaping, clean-outs. Competitive pricing. References. Please call Brendan (413) 687-5552

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**LU DLLOW:** \$925, quiet 1 bedroom, 2nd floor, open kitchen/living room. Parking, on-site laundry. Utilities not included. No smoking, no pets. **413-543-3062.**

## FOR RENT



All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



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HILLTOWNS – MONDAY AT NOON

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32
33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40

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**Suburban Residential**  
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Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Number of Weeks: \_\_\_\_\_ X per week rate = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Credit Card:  MasterCard  VISA  Discover  Cash  Check# \_\_\_\_\_  
Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount of charge: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

First ZONE base price \_\_\_\_\_ Includes additional words  
Add a second ZONE **\$10.00**  
Add a third ZONE **\$5.00**  
Subtotal \_\_\_\_\_  
x Number of Weeks \_\_\_\_\_  
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## In The News

# Artists and artisans will present workshops

AGAWAM – The Agawam Community Artists and Artisans are presenting a new workshop “Art with a Heart” benefiting the local food banks.

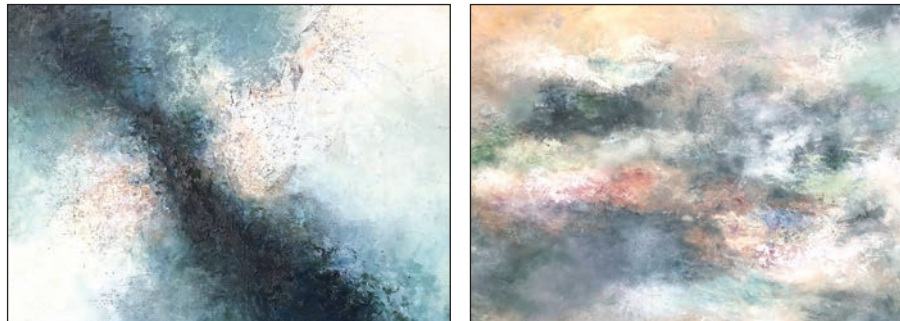
The next workshop is Dec. 7, from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Paint an adorable snowman gazing at the Christmas star for yourself or as a gift for someone special. All materials to complete this project are supplied. Get creative, have fun and support the food banks.

The community is invited to Art with a Heart workshops to “paint with a purpose”. Join the creative fun and paint a piece of art, all which benefit Agawam, West Springfield, Westfield, Southwick, and Springfield food banks. Workshops are \$15 per person for each session and are conducted by artists from the Agawam Community Artists and Artisans. Net proceeds from each session are donated to help feed those in need.

All workshops are offered at The Daily Grind meeting room 568 college Highway in Southwick. For further information contact Ceil Rossi (413) 207-1247 or email [tocare-free2@hotmail.com](mailto:tocare-free2@hotmail.com).



Alexandra Walters will be the demonstrator for the Agawam Community Artist and Artisans meeting on Dec. 13, at 6 p.m., at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St. COURTESY PHOTO



# Visiting Angels to provide free care to veterans

WEST SPRINGFIELD – Visiting Angels West Springfield has recently been approved by the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide non-medical home care for eligible veterans of the United States Armed Forces.

VA benefits offer financial assistance for home care to veterans through several programs.

The VA Aid and Attendance program helps to provide access to home care for veterans and their spouses who need help with daily tasks or who suffer from a disability or illness. Through Visiting Angels West Springfield, veterans who require help with daily living from another individual can receive help with everyday tasks in their home such as bathing, eating, cleaning, and memory care.

The Homemaker and Home Health Care Aid program helps veterans to receive assistance with everyday tasks with the help of a homemaker or home health aid. Visiting Angels West Springfield helps eligible veterans with in-home tasks which allows those who prefer to stay in their homes rather than live in a separate facility.

Visiting Angels West Springfield is offering in-home care for veterans who meet specific service, disability, income, and asset criteria in order to be eligible for these VA programs. To figure out if a veteran is eligible to receive assistance from these programs, contact the Visiting Angels West Springfield office at (413) 733-6900 for more information and assistance with the application process.

# St. Peter's Lutheran Church Annual Gingerbread Fair

HOLYOKE – St. Peter's Lutheran Church will once again host its annual Gingerbread Fair on Saturday, Dec. 2, from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

There will be handmade stained glass, decorations, crafts, needlework,

pottery, flower pots, artwork, cards, food gifts, paintings, a variety of baked goods such as Kuchen, breads, pies, cakes, and cookies.

The Coffee Haus and Lunch Cafe will be open.

Decorate your own gingerbread house or cookie - all materials provided.

Join this shopping extravaganza which will be held at the church, located at 34 Jarvis Ave., Holyoke.



# Enjoy a Warm Winter

CELEBRATE THE SEASON WITHOUT WORRY

Leave your concerns out in the cold and spend time doing the things you enjoy. No more shoveling or managing heating costs. Day Brook Village Senior Living offers a continuum of care all on one campus. Whether you are looking for a vibrant social community or peace of mind as your health needs change, rest assured Day Brook Village offers it all in one place.

CALL 413-561-7958 FOR MORE INFORMATION OR SCAN THE CODE TO THE RIGHT TO SCHEDULE A TOUR TODAY!



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